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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.  
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THE SITUATION.

Details of the occupation of the city of Charleston by the national forces are furnished in the HERALD despatches by the steamship Fulton, which arrived here yesterday, and in those of Secretary Stanton and General Gillmore. It was evacuated by the enemy on the night of Friday last, and on the following morning occupied by the Union troops, into whose hands fell, among other things, one hundred pieces of good artillery and a large supply of ammunition. The fortifications were found unimpaired; but before leaving the rebels fired the upper part of the city, and it is thought that two-thirds of it, together with six thousand bales of cotton, would be consumed before the flames could be subdued. An explosion took place in the Wilmington Railroad depot, killing several hundred citizens. Two iron-clads in the harbor were also blown up by the enemy, and some other vessels were burned by them. The buildings in the lower part of the town are found to be completely riddled by Union shot and shell. The important order of the restoration to national authority of this rebellious city has been received with manifestations of enthusiastic delight in all the loyal States, and has occurred most opportunely for its appropriate recognition in company with the celebration of the birthday of the Father of His Country, and Secretary Stanton has accordingly directed that salutes be fired at noon to-day at every military post and headquarters throughout the country. A meeting of our prominent citizens will be held to-day to arrange for a grand celebration. The public buildings in Washington will be illuminated to-night in honor of this and other recent great national successes. The despatches which we publish this morning are illustrated by a map of Charleston, showing the portions of it burned by the last and the previous fires, and that part returned temporarily uninhabitable by the Union guns.

Southwestern advices confirm previous reports that the greater portion of the rebel army of the Tennessee has been sent to South Carolina to oppose Sherman, though considerable forces still remain at Selma, Alabama, and Meridian, Mississippi. Both the troops who were sent eastward and those who remained behind were dispirited and almost naked. Fortifications, which, however, are not formidable, extend around the town of Selma, where large quantities of war munitions are being manufactured. The conscription of slaves and free negroes for the rebel army is going on in the surrounding country, much to the dissatisfaction of the planters. Forrest is said to be meditating an attack on Vicksburg. The rebels continue to lie in wait on the Mississippi river near Helena, Arkansas. The brave and able commander, Major General George Crook and Brevet Major General Benjamin F. Kelley, attached to Sheridan's army, in which, as well as in other portions of the country, they have rendered signal service in support of the government, were captured at Cumberland, Md., yesterday morning, by a party of rebel cavalry, who made a sudden and spirited dash into the place. The Union pickets were also made prisoners. Some of General Sheridan's cavalry were sent in pursuit of the raiders, with what success we have not learned.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamship China, from Queenstown on the 12th inst., with four days later European advices, arrived here last night.

The steamship Nova Scotia, from Queenstown on the 10th inst., arrived at Portland yesterday, and her mails will reach this city this morning.

In the House of Commons, on the 10th inst., in reply to a question regarding the notice given by the United States government of its intention to increase its naval armament on the lakes and relative to the proposed termination of the Canadian Reciprocity treaty, Lord Palmerston used language similar in tone to that of Earl Russell on a previous occasion. He said no one could deny that the United States had cause of complaint against England and Canada, that the measures to which they had recourse for the protection of their citizens and commerce were fully justified, and that they had a perfect right to increase their naval force. He entered the House to abstain from the present from a discussion of these matters, and asked them "not to assume gratuitously that the American people were animated by feelings of hostility" towards England.

It is said that the French press had received orders to state that public opinion could not fail to be in the reports that Northern France had been to France an English manœuvre to create prejudice in the United States against the French government and the empire of Maximilian. M. Drouyn de Lhays, Napoleon's Minister of State, had explained to all the foreign ministers how the story originated, and assured them that France had no designs of conquest in Mexico.

The Paris correspondent of the London Globe says the post of French Minister in Washington will remain vacant until satisfactory explanations are made by our government regarding the recent Congressional threats in reference to Mexico.

It was reported that Napoleon had sent several steamers in pursuit of the rebel ram Olinda, and that the United States steamer Niagara had also gone to look after her. This is all the additional intelligence regarding her furnished.

It is stated that the Spanish government has resolved to prohibit the publication of the Pope's Encyclical letter. The Emperor of the French had complained to the Pope that the proceedings of his Nuncio in France in reference to this document constituted infractions of both French and international law.

Consols closed in London on the 11th inst. at eighty-nine and one-half to eighty-nine and one-fourth for money. The Liverpool cotton and breadstuffs markets were without change and dull. Provisions were quiet and steady.

CONGRESS.

The Senate transacted but little business of importance, the session being mainly occupied in the consideration of bills relating to Indian affairs. The resolution of thanks to General Thomas and Admiral Lee was adopted, and a number of private bills passed.

In the House of Representatives, the Committee of Ways and Means reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow, from time to time, six hundred millions of dollars; to issue bonds for the same, payable forty years from date, or redeemable at the pleasure of the government at the end of five years; the interest, if paid in coin, to be six per centum; if in currency, seven per centum. Mr. Stevens offered a substitute to borrow the same amount at eight per centum, and authorizing these bonds to be exchanged for others any time within two years, and to be exempt from taxation by State or municipal authority. The bill providing for the government of the rebel States was discussed, and finally laid on the table by a vote of thirty-eight against thirty-three. The resolution recommending that Mr. Field, of Louisiana, be reappointed by the Speaker for examining Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, same time was adopted; but the resolution excluding Mr. Field from the privileges of the floor of the House was laid on the table. The Amendment Amendment bill was taken up, and the first section, punishing all persons who fail to report for enrollment, was stricken out. Without further action on the bill the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The anniversary of Washington's birthday, coming closely upon the reception of the news of the recent glorious national successes, will be celebrated to-day with more than the usual spirit. In this city salutes will be

fired on the Battery and in Union Square, the Seventh Regiment and other military organizations will parade. Truly there will be a number of choice salutes. The streets at night will be illuminated from brilliant displays of fireworks, and many other exhibitions of patriotic feeling will mark the glad occasion.

Governor Fenton and Comptroller Robinson were in town yesterday, in consultation with our leading bankers as to the probability of raising the money on the State bonds to be issued for bounties. The result of the conference renders it certain that there will be no trouble in obtaining the money, provided the Legislature pass the supplementary act to raise the amount by direct tax, in case the people should fail to adopt the amendment to the constitution.

Our advices from the Northern States of Mexico to the 6th ult. represent the people there as still firm in their adhesion to the constitutional government, and determined to resist the imperial invaders. The States of Chihuahua, Sonora and Sinaloa were entirely clear of any of Maximilian's troops, with the exception of a small force in the town of Mazatlan, in the latter State. The city of Chihuahua is the present capital of the republic, and Juarez and all his Cabinet officers are located there, exercising their functions in security. There are about sixteen thousand republican troops in the States of Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua, and others in Sonora. On the 1st of January President Juarez issued a spirited proclamation, declaring a determination to maintain the republic, and urging the people to stand firm in its support.

The Senate Committee held another meeting yesterday, at which the affairs of the City Inspector's Department were pretty thoroughly ventilated. The committee met again to-day.

Drafting commenced yesterday as contemplated, in the Second and Third Congressional districts of this State, which include the city of Brooklyn. In the Second district the drawing was completed for the town of New Lots and the Sixth and Eighth wards of the city, and in the Third district for the Fifth and Fifteenth wards. The wheel will again be set in motion in both districts to-day. The Kings county Supervisors have resolved to give each drafted man who needs it two hundred and fifty dollars, to assist him in purchasing a substitute, or for his family in case he goes into service.

A mass meeting, called under the auspices of the Working Men's Union—an association composed of delegates from all the different trade organizations in the city—was held last evening at Cooper Institute. A large audience was present, and the subjects discussed were the question of wages, of the apprenticeship system and of the abridgement of the hours of labor. Various speakers from the different trade associations entertained the audience with their views, and the exercises were prolonged until quite a late hour.

The order settling the judgment in the case of S. T. Clark versus James and Erasmus Brooks, of the *Argosy*, was decided upon yesterday by Judge Daly. The matter has been referred to ex-Judge Bosworth, with full power to sell out the *Argosy*, so that the plaintiff will now be able to secure his interest in the concern, together with his share of the profits, which the jury, it will be remembered, decided were one-sixth of the whole.

In the case of William White versus Wm. W. Parks, in the Supreme Court, circuit, yesterday, where the plaintiff sued to recover seven thousand dollars, the value of certain bonds which had been stolen from him, and were subsequently found in the possession of the defendant, the jury decided that the bonds were negotiable, and there being no evidence to show that they were not received in the usual course of trade, the Court instructed the jury to bring in a verdict for the defendant.

Reverend Hoffman yesterday, in the Court of General Sessions, passed sentence of death upon Bernard Friery, who was convicted on Friday last of the murder of Harry Lazarus. He is to be executed on the 31st of March. The prisoner, previous to the judgment of the Court being passed upon him, said that he was a friend of Lazarus', was drunk at the time the deed was committed and did not know what he was doing. A youth by the name of English, who attempted to kill officer Connolly, when he arrested him on a charge of perpetrating a burglary in Broadway, was sentenced to the State Prison for ten years. Frank Ferris was placed on trial, charged with murdering his wife by striking her on the head with an axe; but, owing to the absence of a material witness for the people, the case was postponed till Monday. There were a number of thieves who pleaded guilty to highway robbery and shoplifting.

Judge Daly yesterday granted the application of Count Joannes for twenty days' time in which to make out a case showing why the verdict in his recent suit against Mr. Horace Greeley for alleged libel should be set aside and a new trial granted, and notice of those proceedings was served on Mr. Greeley's counsel by the Court in person.

Miss Dickinson last evening delivered a lecture in Plymouth church, Brooklyn, before a large audience, her subject being a "Plea for Labor." She made a strong appeal to her audience in favor of a recognition of the labor of women.

The coroner's investigation of the rather singular case of Rene Gaudier, the Frenchman who committed suicide on last Wednesday, at 219 West Forty-eighth street, took place yesterday. The testimony brought forth some curious disclosures regarding the religious and metaphysical theories of the deceased, but failed to elicit the motive which prompted his rash act.

A man, named Charles Cherry, who was followed from this city by detectives, was arrested in Corning, N. Y., on last Saturday, and found to have in his possession over one hundred and forty counterfeiters of the five dollar Treasury notes and several counterfeiters of the fifty cent notes.

A party of burglars were surprised on Monday night while attempting to penetrate a safe in a broker's office at No. 185 Greenwich street. They had succeeded in blowing off the outer door of the safe by drilling a hole in it and inserting powder, which they ignited; but its two inner doors remained firm, and they were prevented reaching the treasure within. The explosion caused considerable damage to the room, forcing off the plastering, &c. The burglars, on discovering they were being watched, fled, leaving behind them a lot of tools of the trade. One of them, named George Key, alias Dick Greenwood, was pursued and arrested after a struggle with the officer. He was yesterday committed to the Tombs for trial.

It is now almost positively ascertained that the pilot-boat George Steers, belonging to this harbor, of which nothing has been heard since the 12th inst., went ashore in the gale of that night, and was wrecked and broken to pieces on Barnegat beach. Portions of a vessel have since been washed ashore in that vicinity, and also part of a burgee, with "George" upon it. All on board of her are supposed to have perished.

The case of the St. Albans raiders still occupies the attention of the Montreal court. On Monday one of the counsel for the prisoners made a long speech in opposition to the demand for extradition, and violently assailed the government for giving up Burley, the alleged Lake Erie pirate.

A mass convention of loyal Virginians is to meet at Alexandria, Va., to-day. The object of the convention is to consider the condition of the State, and adopt measures for its relief from rebel tyranny; also to discuss the future course and policy of its restored government. The constitutional amendment abolishing and forever prohibiting slavery throughout the country was yesterday adopted by the Legislature of Wisconsin. Seventeen States have now ratified it.

The people of Tennessee vote to-day upon the proposed amendments to the constitution, recently adopted by the State Convention, of which the most important is the following:

ARTICLE I. That slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, where the party shall have been duly convicted, are hereby forever abolished and prohibited throughout the State.

Section 2. The Legislature shall make no law recognizing the right of property in man.

The Western Congress Convention is to be held at Jackson, Mich., to-day and to-morrow. Great interest has been manifested on the subject, and it is expected that there will be a large attendance from the Western States.

The New York Sheep Breeders and Wool Growers' Convention held their annual meeting at Syracuse to-day. A locomotive on the New York and Erie Railroad exploded at Binghamton, while standing still taking wood and water, on Friday night last, killing a man and a fireman employed on the Onondaga Railroad, and seriously injuring the engineer and fireman attached to the train. The force of the explosion was terrific, blowing down the woodhouse, injuring the water tank, depot building, telegraph office, &c., and breaking many pieces of glass in the adjacent houses.

The stock market was higher yesterday. Governments were steady. Gold was weak in the morning, but firm in the afternoon, and closed at 109 3/4. At the evening board it rose to 20 1/2, at which quotation it closed. The markets were unsettled by the fall and fluctuations

in gold yesterday, and scarcely any business was transacted. Foreign merchandise was almost nominal, while many kinds of domestic produce were but little better. Cotton was in p. r. h. lower. Petroleum was lower and nominal. On 'Change everything was lower and unsettled, and the transactions were at lower prices.

The market for beef cattle this week was depressed by heavy receipts, and prices fell about 2c. per pound. The losses were great, as many of the cattle had been two or three weeks on the way, and the extra feeding and shrinkage told heavily against the pockets of the owners. Prices varied from 15c. to 22c., with occasional sales at 25c. Milch cows were nominally unimpaired. Veals were easier. Sheep and lambs were scarce and firm; prices varied from \$5 to \$15 a pair, according to quality. Hogs were also easier, varying from 14c. to 14 1/2c. The total receipts were 6,325 beef cattle, 150 cows, 888 veals, 13,130 sheep and lambs, and 2,000 hogs.

The Fall of Charleston.

The fall of Charleston, in a military and in a moral view, will be hailed in the North, will be felt in the South, and will be recognized in Europe, as the most impressive and potential triumph of this war.

In General Gillmore's brief details of the enemy's works, and their two hundred pieces of artillery and their ammunition abandoned, and in the cotton warehouses, arsenals, quartermaster and commissary stores, railroad bridges, iron-clads, shipyards, &c., destroyed, we have an imposing schedule of the materials of war and other property sacrificed by the rebels in their evacuation, and some idea of the importance of the military position abandoned and the desperate extremities of the rebellion. But its losses, in a single night, of the years of labor and the millions of money expended upon the defenses of Charleston, are but as a feather in the balance against the moral effects of the loss to Davis of that unfortunate city.

Charleston, the hub in which this utopian scheme of a Southern confederacy was engendered; the nest in which the adder's eggs of this giant treason were laid and hatched; where the bloody gauntlet of remorseless war was first cast down in defiance of the laws and sovereign authority of the Union; where, through four long years of this stupendous struggle, all our efforts to punish her audacity have been baffled and laughed to scorn—Charleston, the head and front and moving spirit of this rebellion, carries with her fall the knell of her monstrous offspring, from Richmond to the Mexican border. The followers of Jeff. Davis, from Virginia to Texas, hitherto among his most confident supporters, unshaken in their devotion by all his previous disasters, will now begin to realize his true position. The disaffection in his political camp will rapidly widen, the absences from and the demoralizations in his armies will increase, the utter worthlessness of his paper money will be felt and will precipitate the final collapse of his rotten financial system, and in every form and on every side the elements of his confederacy will fall to pieces, and its powers of resistance, like those of Charleston, will be exhausted, and its armed battalions will melt away and disappear from the face of the land.

Such will be the moral effect of the fall of Charleston throughout the broken and disjointed rebellious States. Throughout the loyal sections, including the States and districts wrested from Davis, the effect will be a new and powerful impulse to the Union cause, and to the good work of filling up the gaps in our armies by volunteers for a short campaign, and a glorious peace, with liberal bounties, and honorable distinction, and all, perhaps, without incurring the danger of a single battle henceforward to the end of the war. The moral effect in Europe of our recovery of Charleston will be disastrous to the holders of the rebel cotton loan, and to speculators in and builders of cotton blockade runners, and will very much enlarge the pacific inclinations towards this country of Lord Palmerston and Louis Napoleon.

But will this war be ended without another great battle? It may not, but we incline to the opinion that it may be. The demoralized fragments of armies under Beauregard, Hardee and Bragg, we will suppose, are aiming for a junction with Lee at or near Richmond. Assuming that they will effect this junction, we cannot doubt that simultaneously Sherman will strike hands with Grant. What then? Richmond goes the way of Charleston; Jeff. Davis and his Cabinet and Congress pack up and pack off by the safest route for Mexico. The so-called Confederate government, at any rate, will be adrift. General Lee, then falling back to Lynchburg, will be left absolute master of the fortunes of the confederacy, and, like a sensible soldier, rather than "die in the last ditch," he will surrender with the honors of war, and the so-called Confederate States will be dissolved, and "our erring brethren" restored to their true allegiance. Let our gallant young men, inclined to join our victorious legions in the field, come forward, or they may lose this last opportunity for a share in the bounties and the honors of the glorious work now surely approaching the attainment of a glorious peace.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.—This is the anniversary of one of the most auspicious events in the history of our nation—the birthday of George Washington, the founder of the republic and the father of his country. The 22nd day of February, 1732, is one that must always be remembered with gratitude by the people of America. It was then that that unselfish patriot, soldier and Christian first saw the light. From his youth to his death he was ever faithful to the grand principles of republican freedom that have placed the nation, which he brought into existence, among the foremost of the world. He of all his contemporaries was the man most fitted, by his honesty, patriotism, courage and resolution, to develop democratic ideas and crush despotism beneath his heels. After the lapse of one hundred and thirty-three years the people of America will unite to-day in celebrating the anniversary of his birth. They will at the same time commemorate events of the highest importance now transpiring—such as the conventions which are being held for the total abolition of slavery, and the rejoicings which are everywhere taking place on the vindication of the national honor and authority—all tending to strengthen and establish the work of Washington. Henceforth, even more than in the past, the 22d of February will be the day of our republican calendar. Up with the flag to-day, and long may it wave!

ANOTHER NEW FOR THE BLOCKADE RUNNERS.—When Wilmington fell into our hands the harbor instantly became a net into which the blockade runners began to fall every day. Supposing that they were making a safe port, in their ignorance of the fact that it had changed masters, they tumbled, like flies into a spider's web, right into the meshes of Porter's fleet.

Now that we have got possession of Charleston we shall no doubt see these rebel argosies, rich laden as they are, steering for home, as they suppose, only to be seized by our cruisers. Indeed, Admiral Dahlgren has caught the first one already. What an early climax it would be to the career of the Franco-Danish rams, which are reported to be on their voyage to this country, if they were to make for the "friendly" port of Charleston to take in coal or do some repairs. We would then have to thank France for a valuable addition to our navy.

THE DRAFT—FILL UP THE RANKS.—ON TO RICHMOND.—The draft commenced yesterday on Long Island, but was confined to the four lowest districts. There was very little excitement about it. The wheel turned round as if it had been well oiled for the occasion, and the names of honored patriots fell out with marked regularity. Everybody seemed to feel, in view of the splendid success of Sherman and the fall of Columbia and Charleston, that something should be done to fill up our ranks. Yet the draft is not popular. But people are now convinced that there is but little more fighting to be done, and that the soldiers now being gathered into the army will only have to act as a grand corps de reserve. This opinion is in fact very nearly correct. It will be satisfactory to the public to be informed that the draft will only be held in those districts where recruiting is very slow. New York appears to be very active in this respect. Recruits are coming in here in large numbers and it is about as much as Major General Blunt and his surgeons can do to pass the men along as rapidly as they come. This is a good sign. We have fifteen thousand men to raise in this city, and if the people wish to avoid the draft altogether they must keep General Blunt's hands full—full of money as well as full of men. In this way New York will present to the rest of mankind the sublime spectacle of a great city, among many others, raising more money, more fighting men and more flags than any other section of the Union; besides being adorned by more civic virtue and more patriotism than all the rest of them put together. Hurry up the recruits, then, and on to Richmond!

THE FALL OF CHARLESTON—ITS EFFECT ON THE REBEL ARMY.—The fact that ninety deserters from Lee's army came into Grant's lines before noon on Monday last is a very significant one. It indicates the effect that the capture of Charleston is having on the rebel soldiery. Every victory gained by us for many months past has had some effect in this same way; but now we are likely to have a stampede. More deserted to the rear, in the attempt to get to their homes, than came into our lines, it is said. Thus Lee loses, from this cause alone, nearly a regiment a day. How long can he stand such a drain? But the drain will be still greater every day as the news spreads. Only the other day a Mississippi paper showed that two Mississippi regiments that numbered together thirteen hundred men when they started for Tennessee with Hood, numbered but seventy on their return. Beauregard's regiments, Hardee's regiments and even Lee's regiments will be reduced in the same proportion within a month by desertion. The complete demoralization of the rebel armies is begun, and the fall of Charleston will, by means of the demoralization it causes, prove to be one of our most important successes.

THE GOLD MARKET.—General Gillmore's decisive blow at Charleston has told with more effect upon the Wall street gamblers. Immediately after the receipt of the news gold went down to 195. Further favorable news will bring the shining metal to a still lower figure; and with every new announcement of the success of our arms it will fall still more. Truly, as the poet says, "in the lowest depth there is a lower still." This is good news for the people, but not for the speculators. The fall of Charleston is synonymous with the fall of gold, of provisions, of clothing, of rents, and of everything in which the workingman is interested. Let us, then, push on our columns, and soon the fall of Richmond will follow that of Charleston, the rebellion will come down with a crash, and the prices of all the necessities of life will come down with it.

EFFECT OF THE FALL OF CHARLESTON ON THE PEOPLE.—It is no wonder that the good news from General Sherman's army produced such an excellent effect upon our people yesterday. We have not seen so much real excitement in our streets since the first firing on Fort Sumter. Broadway and all the principal streets were decked with flags. Everybody having a flag, and anything like an American flag, thought it their duty to "fling their banners to the breeze." The day itself was radiant in its beauty. In the estimation of most people who looked out on the joyous scene from the buildings in the city and the shipping in the harbor, no more glorious sight was ever seen than the victorious Star Spangled Banner gleaming in the sunlight from turret, mast and spire. Flags went up to the mastsheads, and gold down to 195—a foreboding for the future. To-day being Washington's birthday, the display will, doubtless, be twice as inspiring if not more general than it was yesterday.

ITALIAN OPERA.—NORTH was given last night to a fashionable house, with the usual cast. There will be no opera this evening. Mr. Maretzki, finding it indispensable to have a final perfect rehearsal of Verdi's great work, *La Forza del Destino*, in order to place it properly on the stage, is compelled to devote the Academy and the services of his artists to that purpose this evening. It is highly creditable to Mr. Maretzki that he is willing to make so great a pecuniary sacrifice as the abandonment of the performance to-night necessarily involves rather than to delay any longer the new opera which is promised for Friday, and thus disappoint the public of a treat for which they have been anxiously waiting. But his action in this matter is only in keeping with his usual careful efforts to satisfy the public in the production of every generous consideration which we are sure the public will appreciate and will so doubt reward. *La Forza del Destino* will be produced on Friday night with entirely new scenery, costumes and appointments. The opera is interpreted by the grand vocalists of the Academy. Those who have purchased tickets for the opera to-night can have them exchanged before Friday for any other evening, or can have the tickets returned, as they please, by depositing them at the box office of the Academy. Tomorrow evening *Martha* will be given in Brooklyn.

Mr. J. N. Patterson's Sonnet Recitals.—Mr. Patterson, the distinguished poet, commenced the third of his delightful series for to-morrow evening, the 22d inst., at St. Albans's rooms, Fourteenth street.

The Express Newspaper to be Sold. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS. Before Judge Daly.

Stephen T. Clark vs. James Brooks and Erasmus Brooks. This case has at last terminated, as far as litigation in the courts is concerned. Judge Daly this morning settled the price for just appreciation, and will so doubt reward. Judge Joseph Bosworth to determine the manner in which the partnership property should be sold, with full power to sell the *Argosy* a newspaper.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY BY THREE CONCERTS AT COOPER INSTITUTE, ONE AT TWO O'CLOCK AND ONE AT HALF PAST SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING, AND TO-MORROW NIGHT AT HALF PAST SEVEN O'CLOCK.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The Celebration in the City—Grand Fireworks Display, &c.

The one hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the birthday of the Father of His Country, will be observed to-day with a proper degree of spirit, and the people will be reminded of the noble and heroic deeds of the great patriot and statesman, who, by his valor and his wisdom, saved the country from the clutches of the rebellion, and brought it back to the fold of the Union. The people will be reminded of the noble and heroic deeds of the great patriot and statesman, who, by his valor and his wisdom, saved the country from the clutches of the rebellion, and brought it back to the fold of the Union. The people will be reminded of the noble and heroic deeds of the great patriot and statesman, who, by his valor and his wisdom, saved the country from the clutches of the rebellion, and brought it back to the fold of the Union.

THE MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION.

Mayor Guether has issued the following proclamation recommending a general observance of the day—

Mayor Guether, New York, Feb. 22, 1865. The anniversary of the birth of Washington, Feb. 22, 1865, regarded as a day of public utility and rejoicing, it should be commemorated for all time in the spirit of universal peace and justice, and the restoration of the peace and glory of the American Republic.

To this end I respectfully recommend to the citizens of New York to observe the day, the 22d inst., as a holiday, and that the stores and places of business throughout the city be closed.

G. GORDON GUETHER, Mayor.

Immediately on the receipt of the intelligence, Colonel Clark, of the Seventh regiment National Guard, issued orders to his company of guards for a grand parade to-day, to celebrate not only the memory of Washington, but also the grand achievement of Sherman, Gillmore and Dahlgren in the capture of the city of Charleston. The following is the order—

GENERAL ORDER—NO. 3.

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. G. & M. Y., New York, Feb. 22, 1865. This regiment will parade in full uniform and overcoats on the anniversary of the birthday of Washington, February 22, 1865, to celebrate the glorious success of Gen. Sherman and his gallant army, the restoration of our national flag to Fort Sumter, and the capture of Charleston, the cradle of the rebellion.

The route of the regiment will be up Broadway, through Fourteenth street, up Fifth avenue to Thirty-fourth street, &c. The regiment will probably be reviewed by Governor Seymour at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, at about four o'clock P. M.

The Sixty-ninth regiment also signalled the event by volunteering their services to guard Fort Sumter, an offer which in all probability will be accepted. The programme for the celebration to-day comprises most of the customary features.

TRINITY CHURCH.

The renowned choir of Trinity Church has arranged to ring the following pieces on to-day:— 1. Singing the changes on eight bells. 2. My Lodging is on the Cold Ground. 3. You'll Remember Me, from the opera "Bohemian Girl." 4. And Long Ago.

6. March, in *Le Juif Errant*. 6. Grand National Fantasia (written for Trinity Church chimes by George F. Briskow, in honor of the recent great victories). 7. Lovely Lily of the Vale. 8. Spanish Melody. 9. Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean.

10. Airs from "The Bohemian Girl." 11. What Fairy-like Music. 12. Am I Not a Woman and a Soul? 13. The Soldier's Return. 14. Red, White and Blue. 15. Yankee Doodle.

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

The Special Committee of the Common Council of the city of New York, appointed to make the necessary arrangements for properly celebrating the one hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the birthday of George Washington, have concluded, purely from motives of economy, and in order to give greater eclat to the occasion, to discontinue the annual custom of dining with the principal officers of the general and State governments and prominent and influential citizens, and instead have arranged for a celebration of the day in a manner that is deemed by them to be more in keeping with public sentiment, and more in keeping with the genius of our institutions, by a grand display of fireworks on the evening of the ever memorable day which gave to us a Washington and a Charleston.

A salute of one hundred guns will be fired at the Battery and Union square at sunrise. A grand display of fireworks will be given at the City Hall, Union square, Madison square, Jackson square, Mount Morris square, Tompkins square, East Broadway, Grand street, and Fifth Avenue, under the direction of J. W. Hatfield, Esq., the distinguished pyrotechnist, to commence at seven o'clock P. M.

THE GRAND VOLUTE.

A grand volute of blue, green, red, and yellow, in green and red, changes to the grand volute, composed of Saxons flags of every variety of color, concluding with a radius of green shower fire, reported.

THE GRAND STAR.

A star composed of eight large double diamonds, commencing with a circumfused wheel, in purple and yellow; changes to a diamond star, in green and red, and concludes with a brilliant fire, reported.

THE GRAND CROSS.

A cross composed of eight large double diamonds, commencing with a circumfused wheel, in purple and yellow; changes to a diamond cross, in green and red, and concludes with a brilliant fire, reported.

THE GRAND WHEEL.

An extensive mechanical piece, composed of two curving figures, on which revolve the same axis, and assume a number of pleasing changes and elegant figures, concluding with a gilliblow or walled work, reported.

THE GRAND CROWN.

Opens with a vertical wheel, in crimson and silver, and changes to a crown, in green and purple, concluding with a brilliant fire, reported.

THE GRAND SWORD.

This startling and novel American piece opens with a revolving sun of Chinese germs, with ruby and emerald centre, mutuating to the American coat of arms. In the center is the shield of the United States, with the stars and stripes dropping on each side. Over the shield is an eagle, with outstretched wings, in diamond lance work, the whole terminating with grand flights of colored fire, filling the air with yellow, blue, red and green stars.

CONCLUDING PIECE.

commences with a rainbow shell, which changes to an allegorical device, in which the Father of the immortal Washington, the Father of His Country, patriot, soldier and statesman, will appear conspicuously, surrounded with appropriate insignia and crowned with the Genius of America. Fourteen stars will be placed on each side of the piece, throwing out streams of liquid fire, and fire pumps, casting stars of crimson, green, purple, orange, and gold, and ending with a heavy shower of light of rockets, filling the air around with stars, serpents, golden rain, fiery meteors, &c.

Allegorical device, floral shells, batteries, volcanoes, flights of rockets, &c. The exhibition will be the same as Union and Madison squares, but at the other places will be on a smaller scale.

The owners and masters of vessels lying in port, and proprietors of hotels and public buildings, are requested to display their flags during the day; the sections of the different churches are requested to ring their bells at sunrise, noon and sunset.

National and other melodies will be rung on Trinity church chimes during the day. The committee recommend that all the public offices of the Corporation be closed, and that the citizens observe the day as a public holiday.

All bills for expenses requested to be sent to the Clerk before the 1st day of March.

By order of the committee.

STEWART FARLEY, LEWIS B. STILES, ABRAHAM VAN VOORHEE, JOHN D. OTTAWAY, SALVATORE, Board of Aldermen.

EDWIN M. HACKETT, WILLIAM C. FLETCHER, THOMAS O'CALLAGHAN, JOHN HODGKINS, CHARLES J. SMITH, Board of Councilmen.

THE INSTITUTE OF HOWARD FOR ORPHANS OF PATRIOTS.

The Sunday school children will celebrate the anniversary by three concerts at Cooper Institute, one at two o'clock and one at half past seven o'clock in the afternoon and evening, and to-morrow night at half past seven o'clock.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Capture of Major General George Crook and Brevet Major General B. F. Kelley.

WHEELING, West Va., Feb. 21, 1865. A party of rebel cavalry dashed into Cumberland before daylight this morning, surprised and captured the pickets, and carried off Generals Crook and Kelley. It seems to have been a very daring and well planned affair. Cavalry have been sent in pursuit.

NEWS FROM NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 12, 1865.

The rebel Colonel Griffith, commanding at Vidalia, La., has placed an embargo on the passage of cotton and cottons into the Union lines. The annual report of Thomas W. Conway, Superintendent of the Bureau of Free Labor, shows the following result:—The number of freedmen now under Mr. Conway's charge, supported by the government, is one thousand four hundred; expense to the government for the year \$113,500; number of freedmen on plantations in the department, managed by the bureau, fifty thousand; on plantations under culture by military order, fifteen thousand; amount of property transferred to Treasury \$1,000,940.

The cotton market is poorly supplied. Prices are better; low middling,